



MEDIA RELEASE

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Transport industry celebrates Australian Freight Industry Award winners

The best and brightest of the nation's freight and logistics industry were honoured at the **33rd Australian Freight Industry Awards** on Saturday evening with hundreds attending a black-tie Gala Presentation at Melbourne's Palladium Room at Crown.

TWUSUPER and **Viva Energy Australia** once again were the major sponsors of the awards, and the VTA extends its sincere thanks to them for their very generous and ongoing support.

In typical fashion, the industry responded with enthusiasm to the call for submissions, with judges assessing a record number of applications, with finalists shortlisted across a range of categories.

The winners were:

- **Kevin Halpin**, Personality of the Year Award – sponsored by **CMV Truck & Bus**
- **Katharina Attana** of **Tasman Logistics Services**, Female Leadership Award – sponsored by **Viva Energy Australia**
- **Melissa Scerri** of **Victoria International Container Terminal**, Young Achiever of the Year Award – sponsored by **Daimler Truck & Bus**
- **Hyzon Motors**, Sustainable Environment Award – sponsored by **National Transport Insurance**
- **iTrazo Tracetech**, Application of Technology Award – sponsored by **Transport Certification Australia**
- **Linfox**, Best Practice Safety Award – sponsored by **Gallagher**
- **CMV Truck & Bus**, Investment in People Award – sponsored by **Logical Staffing Solutions**

"It was a pleasure to host dignitaries from state and federal governments, along with VTA life members, councillors, and hundreds of VTA members, associate members, and transport industry operators and suppliers," said VTA CEO Peter Anderson.

"Master of Ceremonies Livinia Nixon did another outstanding job hosting the awards segment, stunning guests with her entry into the Crown Palladium Room on a Harley Davidson 'Fatboy' to a Grease musical medley by musicians Furnace and the Fundamentals, complementing and setting the scene for the 1950s theme of the evening.

"We are incredibly proud of the achievements of all our award winners, finalists, and nominees.

"It's been another tough year as we all work to move higher and higher freight volumes, against a backdrop of labour shortages, higher costs, long lead times for trucks and equipment, and inflationary pressures starting to bite.

"So, to everyone that lodged an entry, thank you for taking the time to share your stories because the accomplishments of our industry are significant, and deserve to be acknowledged,"

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The AFIA Committee extended its sincere congratulations to every winner and finalist with Awards Chairman and VTA President Mike Lean saying the committee looks forward to building on the success of this outstanding event for many years to come.

“On behalf of the Executive Council, may I add our congratulations to tonight’s award winners, and extend our thanks to every organisation that submitted a nomination,” Lean said.

“Setting another new record for entries is a tribute to the operators, suppliers and individuals who give so much, and continually strive for best practice in what they do and achieve.”

Following the presentation of awards, guests were treated to a night of fine food and entertainment from high-energy rockers Furnace and the Fundamentals and DJ Emma, with the dance floor full until lights went up, bringing the evening to a close.

“We look forward to continuing a tradition established some years ago, with AFIA winners and award sponsors gathering in a fortnight for a special luncheon at Melbourne’s Eureka Tower to reflect on the achievements and the award celebration,” Anderson said.

The Australian Freight Industry Awards will return in 2024.

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For further information please contact Brian O’Neil on 0411 055 284.